

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, approximately every 15 minutes, a violent crime is committed in South Carolina, with victims, survivors, and their families often facing financial loss in addition to physical injury and emotional trauma; and

WHEREAS, since the beginning of the crime victims' rights movement over 30 years ago, partnerships have formed among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, allied professionals, victim services, and the private sector to ensure that crime victims are treated with the dignity, respect, and help they deserve; and

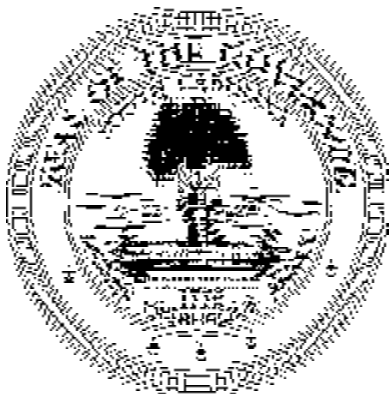
WHEREAS, victim assistance organizations and crime victim advocates throughout South Carolina and the nation are dedicated to providing assistance and comfort to victims and to ensuring that their rights are protected; and

WHEREAS, during the 2003 observance of National Victim Rights Week, crime victims, their advocates, and victim assistance organizations will join together to educate citizens about the devastating effects of crime and victimization and to encourage support for improved rights and services for victims and their families.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 7 - 11, 2003, as

VICTIM RIGHTS WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to join together in remembering our victims of crime, in celebrating criminal justice reforms, and in envisioning a future free from violence.

A stylized, handwritten signature of Mark Sanford in black ink.

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA